Statement of Inherent Requirements

Faculty	Health
Disciplines	Clinical Psychology
Courses	**Postgraduate Courses** Master of Clinical Psychology [742AA] Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology [958AA]

Ethical Behaviour

Inherent Requirement

- Demonstrates knowledge and practice of ethical and professional behaviour in academic and professional environments through compliance with relevant professional standards and codes of ethics.

Rationale

- Clinical psychology is a profession governed by the codes, guidelines and policies of the Psychology Board of Australia (http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Standards-and-Guidelines/Codes-Guidelines-Policies.aspx), Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) (http://www.psychologycouncil.org.au/standards-and-guidelines/), and Australian Psychological Society Code of Ethics. Students are accountable and responsible for ensuring professional behaviour in all contexts in which they are engaged, and must comply with professional standards and codes of conduct to facilitate safe and appropriate interactions supporting the physical, psychological, emotional and social wellbeing of all.

Examples

- Demonstrate knowledge of codes, guidelines and policies governing practice in Clinical Psychology, as per registration requirements, including the Australian Psychological Society Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines, Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, National Practice Standards for the Mental Health Workforce, and others as relevant.
- Demonstrates practice compliant with conduct required to maintain provisional registration (and general registration if relevant) as a psychologist and with relevant codes, guidelines and policies for academic and professional practice, including site procedures and policies when on placement.

Legal Compliance

Inherent Requirement

- Comply with Australian Law, professional regulations and scope of practice relevant to the profession.

Rationale

- Clinical psychology practice is mandated by specific legislation to enable the safe delivery of care. These are specified by the Privacy Act 1988, Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (ACT) , Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and Children and Young People Act 2008 (http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2008-19/default.asp). Compliance with these and other relevant regulations and laws, ensures that students are both responsible and accountable for their practice.
- Knowledge, understanding and compliance with Australian law and professional regulations, facilitates competent, safe, and accountable clinical psychological practice.

Examples

- Prepare and provide documentation according to national and state/territory legal requirements and accepted procedures and standards for professional and academic practice.
- Knowledge of and compliance with all legal requirements relating to clinical and academic practice.
- Compliance with requirements for provisional (or general if applicable) registration with the Australian Health Professional Registration Authority (AHPRA).

Communication Skills

1. Expressive Communication Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Ability to communicate effectively in verbal, non-verbal and written forms, in English, to a standard that is clear, scholarly, professional, and appropriate to the target audience.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement for developing and maintaining trusting relationships, and to be able to perform effectively in academic and complex professional environments. Speed and accuracy of communication may be critical for individual safety or treatment through written, verbal and non-verbal means.
- Clinical psychological practice requires effective written, verbal and non-verbal communication in professional and academic settings. This responsibility is necessary to convey knowledge and provide consistent and safe client care, and which has potential legal and professional ramifications. Communication must be respectful, clear, attentive, sensitive including to individual differences, empathic and non-judgemental, timely and responsive at all times.

Examples

- Extract information from clients to complete clinical assessments, explain a treatment plan and clinical concepts clearly, and accurately explain complex concepts such as consent, confidentiality and risk to a client and other professionals.
- Discuss client issues and progress with clients and other professionals in written, verbal and non-verbal formats.
- Recognise and respond to non-verbal cues, such as a change in a client's emotional state and during classroom or other professional and academic situations.
- Produce accurate, concise and clear documentation on placement in clinical settings in accordance with professional and legal requirements.
- Develop an essay, academic or clinical report to appropriate standards in a timely manner.

2. Receptive Language Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Ability to assess concepts and meanings using the English language, background knowledge, critical thinking skills, and self-reflection.

Rationale

- Communication skills are an essential requirement for developing and maintaining trusting relationships, and to perform effectively in academic and complex professional environments. Speed and accuracy of comprehension may be critical for individual safety or treatment through written, verbal and non-verbal means.
- The practice of clinical psychology requires appropriate capacity to understand and comprehend communication with others. The ability to recognise, interpret and respond to behavioural cues, and display awareness of own behaviours, is necessary to enable safe clinical practice.

Examples

- Read and comprehend information presented in a variety of formats, including formal written documentation, verbal or non-verbal cues from clients and others involved in professional and academic settings, and statistical and empirical information.
- Participate in workshop, tutorial, simulation, and professional placement discussions effectively.
- Gather appropriate information and synthesise it to enable competent psychological assessment, formulation, diagnosis and treatment planning.
- Understanding empirical research and its application to clinical practice through the scientist-practitioner model.

3. Interpersonal Communication Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Respectful communication with others through written, verbal and non-verbal forms at all times, often under stressful conditions. This includes the ability to use effective counselling skills such as active listening, accurate empathy, capacity to build rapport and gain trust, sensitivity and discretion to ensure meaningful and effective interactions with other people.

Rationale

- Effective clinical psychology practice requires the ability to develop and maintain trusting relationships, and to work productively with people from a wide range of backgrounds in different professional contexts. Interpersonal communication allows for effective clinical assessment and intervention, and competent practice with professional and academic settings.

Examples

- Communicate respectfully with people of different ages, genders, sexual orientations, and from diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic and educational backgrounds.
- Develop rapport with clients, peers, academic and professional staff in a manner conducive to effective working relationships and collaborative decision-making.
- Effective management of difficulties arising in the therapeutic relationship while on placement, or in interactions with others, to enable appropriate and safe working relationships.
- Exhibit cultural competency, sensitivity and willingness to work with individuals in a complex and diverse Australian educational and professional setting.

Behavioural Stability

Inherent Requirement

- Behaviour that is consistently appropriate and professional in a variety of contexts.

Rationale

- Behavioural stability requires management of personal emotional responses and mature behaviour in complex and unpredictable academic and professional environments, including in potentially stressful situations.
- Behavioural stability is required to be able to function and work adaptively in demanding roles while maintaining sensitivity and competent practice in culturally and socially diverse settings, and to deal with challenging issues, timelines, and ambiguously defined problems concurrent with professional practice.

Examples

- Reflecting on practice and responding appropriately to constructive feedback.
- Managing own work behaviour to maximise safety, efficiency and effectiveness.
- Management of own emotional state to develop and maintain effective and appropriate relationships with clients and other stakeholders involved in professional practice.

Reflective Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Self-awareness and reflective capacity enabling safe and competent professional and academic practice

Rationale

- Clinical psychology practice requires a sound awareness of self and capacity to reflect on one's challenges, values and behaviours. Self-awareness and reflective skills are needed to enable professional engagement which is safe and appropriate at all times, and which enables growth and development in professional and academic roles. These skills are necessary to fulfil roles while upholding ethical and legal requirements, and responding effectively to feedback in this domain.

Examples

- Ability to reflect on performance and accept feedback to improve skills
- Identification of clinical issues outside of scope, competence or expertise
- Accurate assessment of when practice is impacted, such as through impairment, and demonstrate an appropriate and professional response to ensure professional standards are upheld

Sensory Skills

Inherent requirement

- Sufficient sensorimotor skills, including visual, auditory and tactile acuity to perform diagnostic, assessment, testing, and therapeutic intervention tasks within the scope of practice.

Rationale

- Clinical psychology practice requires administration of procedures that require appropriate visual, auditory

and tactile acuity. The capacity to undertake these tasks to an appropriate degree is necessary to ensure accurate clinical assessment and intervention without compromising psychometric properties, and client safety.

Examples

- Capacity to complete an accurate Mental State Examination (MSE).
- Administration, scoring and interpretation of cognitive and other psychological testing.

Cognitive Skills

Inherent Requirement

- Review and process academic literature and clinical information, analyse data, think critically and synthesise knowledge to address theoretical and practical psychological problems
- Meet learning outcomes and academic standards relevant to the course, utilising cognitive, numeracy, and literacy skills, including creative thinking, attention and memory
- Develop and apply advanced knowledge about conducting scientific research on novel problems, and integrate information for application into clinical practice

Rationale

- Cognitive skills are essential in the acquisition and application of knowledge in both the academic and professional environment. Clinical psychology practice requires these skills in order to provide competent and safe evidence-based clinical practice.

Examples

- Demonstrate understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, research methods, empirical findings, and historical trends in core topics of psychology.
- Apply critical thinking and scientific knowledge about psychology to clinical practice, academic assessment items and research design.
- Integrate empirical research with clinical information to provide safe and competent assessment and intervention, such as formulation and treatment plans, and apply these appropriately based on client characteristics.
- Conduct independent, peer-reviewed scientific research investigation about an original psychological research question.

ICT Capacity

Inherent Requirement

- Acquire and employ a range of information and communications technology (ICT) skills in an appropriate and effective manner in academic and professional settings.

Rationale

- Competent ICT skills are essential to successfully access, analyse and communicate information.

Examples

- Access electronic academic knowledge about applied psychological topics.

- Preparation and submission of electronic assignments.
- Dissemination of ideas and evidence relevant to professional practice.
- Document and store clinical information appropriately.

Sustainable Performance

Inherent requirements

- Consistently completes tasks in a timely manner and within designated periods, while maintaining consistency and quality of performance.

Rationale

- Planning and time management is needed to complete tasks and achieve goals within academic and professionally defined timeframes.
- Clinical psychology practice requires consistent physical and mental performance which is sustainable over time. These skills are necessary to support safe and competent practice and are enabled through active self-care and insight.

Examples

- Submission of high quality and accurate clinical notes and reports for review in a timely manner.
- Completion of assessment tasks to the standard of a practicing psychologist within defined timeframes.
- Management of administrative and clinical aspects of professional practice during required timeframes, including appropriate standards and attention to detail.
- Attention and participation in workshops, placements and other activities throughout the day over extended periods.
- Appropriately balancing aspects of clinical training, including coursework, placements and research, to meet deadlines across the period of enrolment and maintain quality work in these domains.